



COOPERSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL

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January 21, 2022

Good Afternoon:

The purpose of this email is to provide updated guidance regarding isolation, quarantine, and return to participation in school settings. New York State Department of Health (NYSDoH), Otsego County Department of Health (OCDoH) and Bassett Medical Center continues to issue guidance and these updates clarify all information received by schools from December 27, 2021, through January 18, 2022.

After careful review and effective January 24, 2022, Cooperstown Central School District (CCSD) will implement the following guidance, which is aligned with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, regarding isolation, quarantine and return to participate.

1. **Masking and Distancing (p. 1):**

Both masking and distancing continue to be required in school settings.

2. **Quarantine in Schools (p. 4):**

Quarantine is a strategy used to prevent transmission of COVID-19 by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 apart from others. The following definitions are used in determining quarantine status in schools.

- **Fully vaccinated (in schools)** is defined as two weeks after the receipt of either two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine or full course of any other recognized vaccine.
 - i. See Quarantine Exception for Schools (K-12) below for further guidance. CCSD implements multi-layered mitigation strategies.
- **Boosted:** When an individual receives a booster dose for COVID, they are immediately considered boosted. Individuals do not have to wait 2 weeks to be considered "boosted".

Who HAS TO Quarantine After Close Contact With Someone With COVID-19?

- Anyone who has not completed a primary vaccine series.
- Anyone who is not vaccinated

Who DOES NOT have to Quarantine after Close Contact with Someone with COVID-19?

- Anyone ages 12 or older and who has received all CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including boosters if eligible and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people. (see definitions above)
- Anyone ages 5-11 years old who has completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Anyone who has had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test, e.g., antigen or PCR).

Quarantine Exception for Schools (K-12)

Exposed fully vaccinated students, teachers, and staff who must quarantine because they did not receive a CDC recommended booster when eligible can attend or work at school during the quarantine period where masking, distancing, etc. is monitored and enforced. However, these individuals must continue to quarantine as otherwise required outside of academic instruction periods in school. **Extra-curricular, after-school, or community activities are not permitted during quarantine.**

- **In-classroom activities:** All fully vaccinated* individuals (students, teachers, and staff), who have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 may continue to attend or work at school, regardless of booster status, while quarantined outside of school. Continued attendance applies only to participation in classroom activities and taking the bus to and from school.

*Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after the receipt of either two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine or full course of any other recognized vaccine.

- **Extracurricular or after school activities:** Individuals 12 years and older who are eligible for a booster but not boosted, and who have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, cannot participate in extracurricular or after school activities and, aside from school attendance for instruction and bus travel, must adhere to a 5-day quarantine at home. Fully vaccinated 5-11-year-old children are not eligible for a booster and have no further restrictions.

3. Isolation (p. 3)

Isolation is used to separate people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 from those without COVID-19.

Who has to Isolate?

People who are confirmed to have COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 need to isolate regardless of their vaccination status. This includes:

- People who have a positive viral test (e.g., antigen or PCR) for COVID-19, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms.
- People with symptoms of COVID-19, including people who are awaiting test results or have not been tested. People with symptoms should isolate even if they do not know if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19

Isolation lasts for a minimum of 5 days (regardless of vaccination status). If symptoms persist, further isolation may be required.

4. Return to Participation (RTP) (p. 5)

The recent change in CDC guidelines to shorten the recommended home isolation period for people with COVID-19 to 5 days has generated a lot of questions about the timing of return to participation (RTP) in PE and sports after a COVID positive test. Bassett pediatricians who serve as school medical directors and who oversee the School Based Health centers provided the following clarification and rationale for their recommendations pertaining to RTP.

“There is an important distinction between isolation duration and RTP. The two issues are not linked in the way they might at first appear to be. The CDC's recommendations for isolation concern themselves with questions of contagion and spread of disease. Our recommendations for RTP, on the other hand, are designed to address the known risk of cardiac complications

from COVID-19 infection. That risk is not tied in any easily detected way to the symptoms of acute COVID-19 illness and may not even show up until after typical COVID symptoms have resolved.”

Effective January 24, 2022, CCSO will require students who have tested positive for COVID-19 to schedule an appointment with their medical practitioner for assessment prior to RTP. To resume play with a sports team or to participate in PE class, the student will need to submit a doctor’s note clearing them to RTP.

5. Symptomatic Student with No Known Exposure Attestation (p. 3)

CCSO will continue to send students home from school who display COVID like symptoms. CCSO will now allow individuals that are displaying COVID like symptoms and who do not have a known exposure to someone who has tested positive COVID the opportunity to use the NYS supplied tests, pending availability, to return to school with negative test results.

This only applies to students sent home from school with no known exposures. Procedures are outlined on the [attestation form](#). You must receive this form and test kit, while supplies last, from the school nurse when your child is sent home as they will fill out the top component.

- **Special Note Regarding at Home Tests:** As of January 18, 2022, families can order 4 rapid COVID tests per household free from the US Government.
https://www.covidtests.gov/?fbclid=IwAR2lOX-7_x9ZP2OrGXvFF1NKEP1WSLj8vvGlkS1mRPWDwZeasRrZdHLvyPs

6. Contact Tracing (p. 6)

While schools are no longer required to contact trace, CCSO will continue to notify parents of a known exposure as explained in the January 8, 2022, correspondence.

CCSO has updated the Districts Operating Plan which can be found on our website. I have included page numbers in the plan where changes have been made.

We appreciate your patience as we strive to share the latest information with our community. As I have shared, the guidance changes before we can even digest the previous set up guidelines. There has been discussion that this specific guidance from NYSDOH may again be adjusted. I will be sure to let you know if there are any changes.

Sincerely,

Sarah Spross

Sarah Spross
Superintendent
Cooperstown Central School District

References:

[NYDOH Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance, January 14, 2022](#)
[NYSDOH Frequently Asked Questions for Schools, January 14, 2022](#)
[NYSDOE Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance, January 18, 2022](#)
[Bassett Medical Center Update on Return to Participate Protocol, January 20, 2022](#)